

CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)  
MILPITAS CITY HALL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2015

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners present: Arbaugh, Arefi, Chen, Grilli, Serpa. Commissioner absent: Mateo, Hardin. Alternate Commissioner present: Chang, T. Alternate Commissioner absent: Chang, P.

Council Liaison Grilli: Present  
MHS Student Liaison Mikayla Horyza: Present  
MUSD Liaison Gunawan Alisantosa: Absent  
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present

**II. Alternates Seating of** No Alternate Commissioners were seated.

**III. Allegiance Pledge of** Conducted by Chair Grilli.

**IV. Minutes** MOTION to approve the minutes of November 20, 2014  
M / S: Serpa / Arefi Ayes: All

**V. Agenda** MOTION to approve the agenda of January 22, 2015.  
M / S: Arbaugh / Arefi Ayes: All

**VI. Announcements:** None.

**VII. Public Forum:** None.

**VIII. New Business**

**1. Elections**

The SCC conducted nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Dennis Grilli was elected Chair and Dana Arbaugh was elected Vice Chair of the commission.

MOTION / NOMINATION: To elect Dennis Grilli as Chair of the SCC.  
M / S: Arbaugh / Arefi Ayes: All

MOTION / NOMINATION: To elect Dana Arbaugh as Vice Chair.  
M / S: Arefi / Chen Ayes: All

## **2. Review of Future Sister City Student Visits**

Chair Grilli recalled discussion last year regarding alternating, based on the low interest from high school families in home stays, between Huizhou and Dagupan. Commissioner Serpa stated she agreed with this statement: 1) the SCC doesn't have enough money in its budget, and; 2) there should be no favoritism of any kind towards a sister city.

Commissioner Arefi noted that the City doesn't have enough student interest in sending a delegation to Huizhou in the past and that the City cannot send student delegations to Dagupan due to the State Department's travel warning against Americans travelling to the Philippines. He recommended that the SCC promote itself to the residents of Milpitas. He suggested that a subcommittee be formed that can conduct research and bring information to the SCC at future meetings.

MOTION to establish a practice of alternating between the two sister cities that desire to send student delegations (currently limited to Huizhou and Dagupan)

M / S: Arbaugh / Chen

Ayes: All

MOTION to invite up to 10 Huizhou students in 2015, plus chaperones.

M / S: Arbaugh / Chen

Ayes: All

The reason these motions were made, and all agreed, is the historic problem of achieving enough housing for all visiting students. It was determined that since Dagupan came in 2014, this city would then be invited in 2016.

## **3. SCC's Ability to Conduct Effective Fundraising in 2015**

Chair Grilli noted that the SCC agreed to discuss a fundraising effort and to focus on the interest and people available to conduct fundraising. Discussion followed regarding criteria for fundraising for a series of things that publicize the SCC and the student exchanges. Ultimately, it would be used to financially support a teacher chaperone that can help support a sister city visit on campus. Another suggestion is that funds be used to help Milpitas families host visiting students. Discussion followed regarding setting fundraising priorities and studying other city and private programs. A subcommittee was tasked with asking the following about fundraisers: How much work is this? How many people are needed to do the fundraiser? How often will a fundraiser need to be conducted to achieve the amount of funds needed to support what the SCC wants to do? Then, consider the amount of effort and the amount of anticipated funding. Consensus was to have Commissioners Arbaugh, Arefi and Tom Chang conduct fact finding and report back to the SCC at the February meeting.

## **IX. Old Business**

### **1. E-Pal Project with Sister Cities**

Staff reported that she met with the Digital Business Academy teacher. Students are communicating. There are eight email addresses that "bounce back." This is being followed up. The DBA teacher will assign as task to the students: prepare a pictorial

or write an essay (or both) that describes what it means to be a US citizen, a Californian, a Milpitas resident, and a Milpitas High School student. The assignments will be sent to e-pals the week of February 2. Staff also discussed lessons learned from this year to be applied next year.

## **2. Tsukuba City, Japan**

Staff noted that Mayor Esteves received a New Year postcard from Mayor Ichihara and passed around a color copy. She reviewed an email from a San Francisco travel agency and received direction to respond that travel between the cities is not currently being conducted. Staff went over a package of information received from the New Japan Women's Association – Tsukuba Branch requesting cooperation for an A-Bomb photo exhibit and for the international signature campaign, a petition, for the appeal for a total ban on nuclear weapons. It was noted that the SCC has established a posture of not becoming involved in political issues. The consensus was not to respond to the request. It was noted that the info packet arrived without the endorsement of the City of Tsukuba.

## **3. City of Dagupan, Philippines**

Staff noted that she has emailed Farah Decano in regards to the eight student emails that bounce back but has not yet received a response. It was suggested that staff send another email.

## **4. Huizhou Municipality, China**

Staff announced conversation between the two city contacts regarding a visit to Huizhou in June 2015 or 2016. Huizhou emailed a tentative itinerary. Staff distributed a flyer from a company that is preparing a London-Paris-Venice trip for Milpitas High School students in 2016. She noted that these companies make all reservations and offer a payment plan for parents. It was noted that Huizhou made all arrangements for the previous trip of Milpitas students. Staff will look into options.

## **IX. City Council Liaison Report**

At the last Council meeting a campaign finance reform committee was established. This is viewed as leveling the playing field. One recommendation is to study what San Diego did in this area. The City Attorney will work with this committee.

## **X. School District Liaison Report – None**

## **XI. Future Agenda Items – Reviewed with these changes:**

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
  - i. Tsukuba, Japan
  - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
  - iii. Huizhou, China

2. Sign Noting Sister Cities in City Plaza
3. SCC Promotions & Fundraising – Report from Subcommittee
4. Sister City MOUs Display – Commissioner Chen is the SCC’s representative.
5. Sister City in Mexico – Council Liaison Grilli is contact.

**XII. Adjournment**

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. until the regular meeting of February 26, 2015.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting of November 20, 2014 to the regular meeting of January 22, 2015.

M / S: Arbaugh / Arefi

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe  
Staff Liaison